

Boiling, 20.5 L.

Drawer 19A

Artists - P

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Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Otis L. Polley

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

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THE BOUNDARY OAK

Print Size 19" x 23½"

500 Signed and Numbered.....\$15.00
1000 Signed Only.....\$10.00

About the Print...

The old Boundary Oak on the Sinking Spring farm was the last tree to look down upon the nativity of the Civil War President. It was the last treasured living memorial of him.

The trunk has a circumference of 16 feet at a point 6 feet above the ground. The branches formed a perfect canopy with a spread of more than 100 feet.

As early as 1805 the tree had been marked as the beginning corner of the 348½ acre tract which David Vance bought from Richard Mather. This was the piece of land which came into possession of Thomas Lincoln on December 12, 1808. This tree was made the beginning corner of four other farm surveys. In 1827 the tree was set apart from its contemporaries as described in a survey of that year: "To begin at a noted white oak D. V. Vance's Corner."

In 1969, The Davey Tree Company began working with the Boundary Oak. At that time the tree was pruned and several limbs were removed. To help maintain health and vigor, several hundred pounds of Davey Tree Food were applied. (One of the large main limbs had been removed by Davey several years earlier.) All of this effort proved to no avail because eventually, time, weather, insects, and disease claimed the magnificent oak. In June, 1978, Davey Tree Company again returned to the park; this time to cut the remains of the tree back for safety purposes. The main shaft of the trunk, to a height of approximately 25 feet, has been injected with a wood preservative to help stay the natural process of decomposition.



About the Artist...

Otis L. Polley, the artist, is a native of LaRue County. He was born and has lived most of his life in LaRue County, within about six miles of Lincoln National Park, where the old boundary oak stood.

He has always been interested in art, but his only training has been a few short informal courses.

About three years ago he and his wife opened a custom picture frame shop in Magnolia, Ky. As the art work began to come in to be framed he became so inspired by a photograph of the boundary oak brought in by a customer, Mrs. A. G. Back, of Hodgenville, Ky., that with her permission he painted it. This is the results.

The photograph was made by the late Mr. Howard Gardner of Hodgenville - winter, 1948.



Reiley, Deane L.

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